Name:

Date:

Class:

**The Setting of *Call of the Wild***

**Directions:**

1) Read this passage below. Underline any information that reminds you of something from *Call of the Wild.*

2) On the third page, look over the map and **circle** any names of cities, towns, or territories you remember from *Call of the Wild.*

***The Legacy of the Klondike Gold Rush***

The Klondike gold strike in the Yukon Territory marked the end of an era when prospectors could hope to dig out a fortune from the earth. Perhaps because it came so late in time compared to other major gold strikes, or perhaps because some miners did take home millions in spite of the frozen environment, this gold rush left a lasting mark on the American imagination. Today, readers still enjoy *The Spell of the Yukon*, by Robert Service and the many works of Jack London such as *Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*, that tell of the immense hardships under which the miners worked. Yet these stories also tell of the pull that the far north had on many and, even today, they spark readers' fascination.

The Klondike Gold Rush was significant not only because it was the last great gold rush but also because it increased awareness of the northern frontiers of Alaska and Canada. Unimpressed, the press had labeled the purchase of Alaska as "Seward's folly" or "Seward's ice box." Alaska and the Canadian Northwest, including the Yukon Territory, remained sparsely populated until the end of the century. When the U.S. Census Bureau declared the western frontier closed in 1890, interest in Alaska grew. While there still were millions of acres of empty space in the lower states and territories, more people began to venture north, toward the lands they recognized as the last frontier. The discovery of gold, first in Yukon Territory and then in Nome, Alaska, raised the public's interest in what the far north had to offer.

Many changes took place in the Yukon as a result of the gold rush. A railway was built from Skagway, Alaska, to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, in 1900. The population of Whitehorse swelled to 30,000 the same year. The gold-bearing gravel found between the Yukon and Klondike Rivers brought as much as $22 million in 1900, but it fell to $5.6 million by 1910 when most of the stampeders had left for Alaska, returned to Seattle, or set out to other regions.

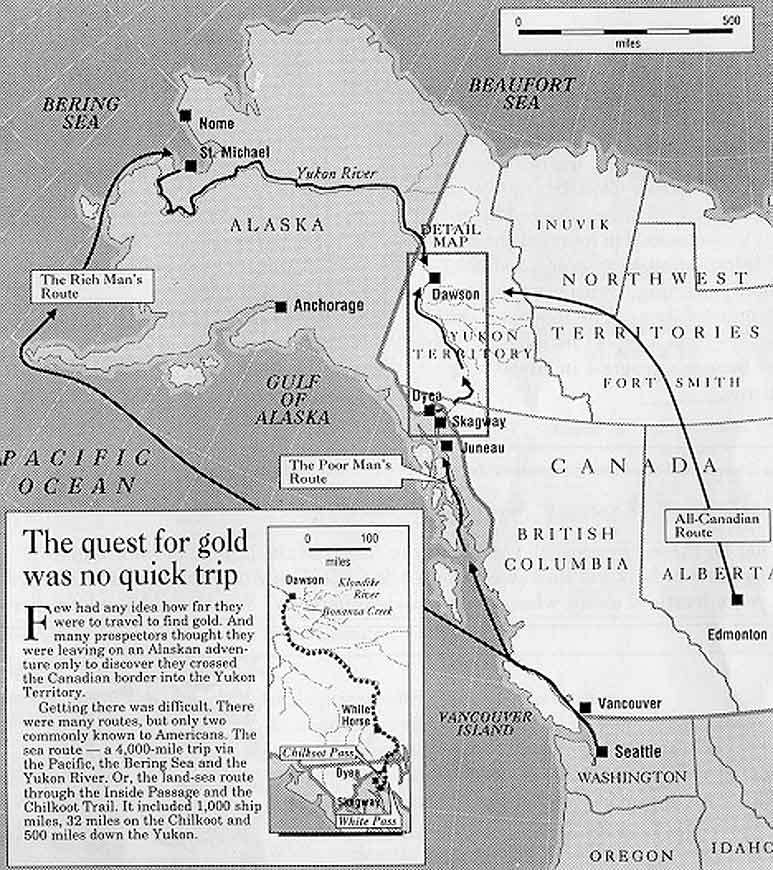
Many of the stampeders (people chasing the gold rush) who went through Seattle never reached the gold fields. In fact, between 1897 and 1900, more than 100,000 people from many nations attempted to reach the Klondike, but no more than 40,000 reached Dawson City. Some quit on the trail after experiencing too much hardship. Some returned to their original homes. Still others returned to Seattle and made it their permanent home.

For Seattle, the gold rush created a boom that attracted people from all over the world even after the gold rush ended. In 1890, Seattle's population was 42,837. By the turn of the century, that figure had almost doubled, and by 1910, the population had reached 237,194.

Courtesty: http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/55klondike/55facts4.htm

Map of the Routes to the Klondike Gold Rush

**Directions:** Look over the map and **circle** any names of cities, towns, or territories you remember from *Call of the Wild.*



Courtesy: http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/55klondike/55images/55map1bh.jpg